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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Teiichirou Chiba *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/492,761

Filed: January 27, 2000

For: SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER
37 C.F.R. § 1.97 AND 1.98

Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 18, 2000

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 applicant hereby notifies the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form and which the Examiner may deem relevant to the patentability of the claims in the above-identified application. One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for the listed foreign language document with the exception of Japanese Publication No. 042763/2000, a corresponding English abstract has been attached to each the listed foreign language documents. For Japanese Publication No. 042763/2000, applicant provided the following comments:

(Title) Form of dot mark by laser beam, marking equipment for making said dot mark and method of making said dot mark.

(Summary) The marking equipment for making dot marks in a desired size and form without melting and evaporating the central portion of the curved surfaces. The optical readability of the dot marks is also improved.

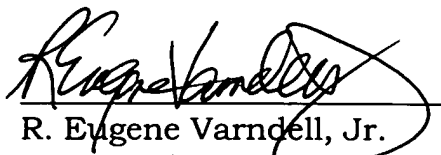
Additionally, the Examiner's attention is directed to related application U.S. Serial No. 09/448,127, filed November 24, 1999, and any documents cited therein.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial or otherwise mark one copy of forms PTO-1449 and forward the same to the applicants indicating that the documents listed thereon have been considered.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee therefor, as well as any deficiency in the payment of the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 22-0256.

Respectfully submitted,
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